

WHAT WAS SAID
ABOUT PRESENT
EXCISE BOARD

Testimony Offered Before
Senate Committee in Jones-
Works Hearings.

PROTESTS MADE, BUT
NOT ACTED UPON

Both Temperance and Liquor In-
terests Testify to Results of
Appeals Made.

When the excise law of 1893 was passed it provided that the Excise Board should be the three District Commissioners, but the following year this was amended so that three assistant assessors, who should be designated by the assessor, and who shall serve for life, unless removed for cause, should constitute the Excise Board, which now prevails.

The law vests great discretionary powers in this board, and complaints from those interested in diminishing the number of saloons and in preventing certain applicants from getting licenses have been very numerous.

The board has been under fire during its life, and in the Senate hearings upon the Jones-Works bill many criticisms were launched against it. The chief of these criticisms was that it disregarded the recommendations of the police authorities concerning the character of saloons, and also disregarded the protests of property owners and citizens who protested against certain saloons being granted a renewal of licenses.

Result of Criticism.

As the outgrowth of these criticisms, the proposed Jones-Works bill abolishes the present Excise Board, provides that the new Excise Board shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Senate, and shall serve for only three years. It also places extraordinary powers in the hands of the Superintendent of Police, stipulating that in event he recommends the refusal of a license that the Excise Board cannot go over his veto, except by unanimous vote of the board.

Some of the testimony which induced the Senate committee to make these changes follows.

Mr. Dinwiddie, of the Anti-Saloon League, was the first witness to criticize the methods of the board. He related how the board has made a ruling that persons who kept house in an apartment house were not residents within the meaning of the law, and that such a ruling made farcical the provision that before a license can be granted the applicant must present the written consent of a majority of the residents within the block where he wants to open a saloon.

Mr. Dinwiddie showed by many illustrations where this ruling had mitigated in favor of the saloon keeper, because residents keeping house in apartments neighboring the proposed saloon had objected in great numbers, but their protests had received no recognition by the Excise Board under its ruling.

To Clean Up the Streets.

Major Sylvester, superintendent of police, said: "Then again, I think, so far as the granting of licenses is concerned we feel that more power should be given to the Government to control, to cancel, to annul, and to abrogate. In cases where I have gone to the owners of saloons and through my captains and told them that I wanted the disorderly and unsightly crowds of people who were congregating in front of their places sent away, so that the places would be clean, and that if they did not I would make a report against them when their applications came in for licenses, I found very little head given to it in some actions, whereas if the law would permit us to say that what I have told you is going to be carried into effect, if I had my club to that end, I believe it would improve conditions. It would make the man who went into the barroom understand that he could not hang around on the outside. The man on the inside I think he would be kept away."

The Chairman—Do you think giving to the Excise Board or the Board of Commissioners full discretion with reference to the granting of licenses, or the suspension of licenses, or the granting of a transfer, would assist in bettering conditions?

Major Sylvester—I think that is, Mr. Chairman. I believe that if a captain of police reports against a location making an application, or against an individual making an application for a license, and that report is approved by the mayor and superintendent, the man should not be granted a license. If the mayor and the superintendent of police should report to the excise board that it should not be granted, that the excise board should withhold the license.

Sensor Works—What have you found to be the fact with respect to your recommendations in this direction? Have you been supported pretty thoroughly by the Excise Board?

Major Sylvester—I am not familiar

PRESIDENT TAFT'S MESSAGE TO GOMEZ



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W. H. TAFT.

"I am sincerely gratified to learn of your government's energetic measures to put down the disturbances, and to know that you are confident of being successful. As was fully explained to the Cuban charge d'affaires here, this government's motive in sending ships to Key West, just as in sending the Prairie to the Guantanamo naval station, was merely to be able to act promptly in case it should unfortunately become necessary to protect American life and property by rendering moral support or assistance to the Cuban government. As was made clear at the time, these ordinary measures of precaution were entirely disassociated from any question of intervention."



JOSE M. GOMEZ.

ARMY CONFERENCE
MEASURE TO LEAD
TO BITTER FIGHT

Automatic Retirement of General Wood and
Other Items in Conference Report
Recommended to House.

Providing for many changes in the administration of an army, including a section which will automatically retire Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood as chief of staff March 4 next, the conference report on the army appropriation bill was filed in the House today. Although the more important details of the conference report "leaked out" several days ago, the formal presentation of the document makes certain that the following compromises have been agreed upon by the House and Senate managers:

The House yielded in its demand for the abolition of five regiments of cavalry and this goes out of the bill.

The term of enlistment will be four instead of five years. The latter figure was proposed by the House, in lieu of the present three-year term and the middle ground was finally accepted by the conferees.

Reach Compromise.

A compromise has also been reached on the proposal to begin the abandonment of so-called useless army posts. The House expected in its demand for the immediate abandonment of a number of these posts.

It is provided that there shall be a consolidation of the quartermaster, paymaster and commissary departments of the army. The combined departments will be known as a supply corps.

The sum of \$4,000 is made available for a military road from the southern end of the new Highway bridge across the Potomac to some point on the southern boundary of Arlington cemetery.

That section of the bill which would result in the displacement of General Wood as chief of staff provides that no man shall be appointed chief of staff who has not seen ten years actual service in command of troops as a commissioned officer.

A bitter fight is expected in the House when the conference report is called for. The House expects that the Wood-Andrews controversy will receive an airing, and General Wood's friends probably will attempt to reject that part of the conference report which strikes a blow at the chief of staff.

In conference the appropriation for the purchase of ships was increased from \$75,000 to \$100,000.

Wood Is Supported

By Secretary in

Public Statement

Secretary of War Stimson in a statement issued late this afternoon deplores the attempt of certain members of Congress to legislate Gen. Leonard Wood, the present chief of staff, out of office after March 4 next.

The Secretary says: "This attempt is a pretty nice piece of pay for personal legislation. What I am concerned with primarily is the effect of such legislation to affect the status of individual officers for whom there has been the best of the American army."

In the present proposition the evil is exhibited in its most exaggerated form and in the American people have any great sympathy for an attack upon a capable officer who served his country well in Cuba and in the Philippines and who is serving it with energy and efficiency as chief of staff."

The provision in the conference report that no officer shall be permitted to serve as chief of staff unless he shall have served at least ten years as a commissioned officer of the line with rank below that of brigadier general, if adopted, would have consequences of a serious character, according to the secretary.

Is Granted Leave.

Major George B. Duncan, on duty at the War College, in this city, has been granted leave of absence for two months.

WEATHER REPORT.

FORECAST FOR THE DISTRICT.
Fair, warmer tonight. Tuesday unsettled.

TEMPERATURES.		AFLECK'S.	
U. S. BUREAU.			
8 a. m.	63	8 a. m.	67
9 a. m.	71	9 a. m.	72
10 a. m.	73	10 a. m.	75
11 a. m.	75	11 a. m.	79
12 m.	76	12 noon.	81
1 p. m.	77	1 p. m.	82
2 p. m.	78	2 p. m.	85

TIDE TABLE.
Today—High tide, 5:09 a. m.; 5:44 p. m.
Low tide, 11:30 a. m.; 12:10 p. m.
Tomorrow—High tide, 5:33 a. m.; 6:33 p. m.
Low tide, 12 a. m.; 12:40 p. m.

SUN TABLE.
Sun rises..... 5:37 Sun sets..... 7:15

GIRL CLERK TELLS
OF PAGE CALLING
SOLONS "CROOKS"

Pamphlet Libeling Members
of Judiciary Committee
Sent Out by Defendant.

Fighting stubbornly on the question of jurisdiction, Henry W. A. Page, the New York linen merchant, began his defense in Criminal Court, No. 2, this afternoon to an indictment charging libel of the House Judiciary Committee in the circulation of a pamphlet calling the members "crooks."

When the Government rested its case Attorney Samuel Bell Thomas renewed his motion to quash the indictment, contending that Page should be tried in New York and not in the District, as the evidence adduced proved that he was in the former jurisdiction when the alleged libelous statements were circulated.

Justice Barnard overruled the motion after extended arguments had been made by Attorney Thomas and Assistant Attorney General J. C. Adkins. Exceptions were taken by the defendant's counsel, and the record is being prepared for an appeal to the District Court of Appeals in the event of the conviction of Page.

Congressman Henry D. Clayton, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, was the last witness for the Government. His testimony was entirely formal.

Miss Maud Friel, a stenographer and former employee of Page, gave the most damaging testimony against the defendant. She told the jury that Page dictated the utterances to her, and then ordered them sent through the mail to the members of Congress and the newspaper men in the House and Senate press gallery.

The word "crooks" was written on the prelude to the conference, but it was afterwards erased, according to Miss Friel. The stenographer also told of Page's divorce.

"He wife obtained a divorce and gets \$1,000 alimony," said Miss Friel, smiling at the jury.

Members of the House have been summoned to testify in behalf of Page. Congressman Floyd was the only witness from the House. This forenoon, the others subpoenaed being called for this afternoon.

"Of the total appropriation for roads, walks and wharves, \$2,000 is allowed to be spent to macadamize the roadway on Government property between the Government experimental farm and Arlington National Cemetery. A Senate amendment to construct a highway from the Potomac to the southern boundary of Arlington has been stricken out."

The provision in the law of 1909 that the two tracts of land to be acquired as sites for a reformatory and workhouse shall be widely separated, is repealed. This makes it possible for the reformatory to be established near the workhouse.

"Of the total appropriated for roads, walks and wharves, \$2,000 is allowed to be spent to macadamize the roadway on Government property between the Government experimental farm and Arlington National Cemetery. A Senate amendment to construct a highway from the Potomac to the southern boundary of Arlington has been stricken out."

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NO INTERVENTION,
SAYS TAFT, WHILE
SHIPS HURRY ON

President Sends Note Reassuring Gomez,
But at Same Time Reserve Squadron
Gets Ready.

President Taft dispatched a cablegram to President Gomez, of Cuba, today, asserting that the centralization of both military and naval fighting forces near the island must not be construed as the forerunner of intervention by the United States.

The note was dictated on the President's campaign special train, and was in answer to the plea of President Gomez that he was well able to suppress the rebellion of blacks.

Simultaneously with the publication of the text of the President's note, however, came the report that the Government is prepared to dispatch the reserve squadron now stationed at Philadelphia, to join the nine warships on their way to Cuban waters. Naval officials today regarded such a move as extremely probable.

Text of the Note.

The text of the President's note, dictated after an extensive interchange of telegrams between the President in New Jersey and Secretary Knox in Washington, follows:

"I am sincerely gratified to learn of your government's energetic measures to put down the disturbances, and to know that you are confident of being successful. As was fully explained to the Cuban charge d'affaires here, this government's motive in sending ships to Key West, just as in sending the Prairie to the Guantanamo naval station, was merely to be able to act in case it should unfortunately become necessary to protect American life and property by rendering moral support or assistance to the Cuban government. As was made quite clear at the time, these ordinary measures of precaution were entirely disassociated from any question of intervention."

At the same time that the text of this message was given out at the State Department, it was intimated that the course of this Government in the present Cuban situation would not be guided by advice from the Cuban government. The policy of the State Department will be determined by advice from its consular agents, and especially important will be the report from the commander of the Paduchah, who is making a personal investigation of the department of conditions at the center of the trouble within the next few hours.

Big American interests. Americans in this region own property valued at \$25,000,000, and the State Department has been bombarded with telegrams requesting protection, and in many cases intervention is demanded.

The "five days" requested by certain Cuban officials in which to put down the uprising, may not be granted by this Government, and if consular agents say condition warrant it the force of 1,300 Marines and 4,000 bluejackets with the fleet which is due at Key West tomorrow night, will be landed at Havana by Thursday afternoon. Havana is about ninety miles from Key West, and the trip across the sea at that point may be made in six hours by the war ships.

Guantanamo, situated at the other end of the island, will be the base for the Marines about the Prairie, and this force will be right at the heart of the war zone when they land.

Seven Hundred Men From the Prairie Land at Guantanamo

HAVANA, May 27.—The cruiser Prairie, with 700 American Marines aboard, reached Guantanamo naval station today and the Marines were immediately landed to reinforce the small guard already on duty there. So far as the revolution in the island is concerned, it was positively asserted today by the Government officials that it is entirely confined to Oriente province, and that it will soon be stamped out.

Many veterans have protested against the apparent slowness of the troops in the field in moving against the bandits and as a result of this, the danger of American intervention, the operations are being pushed.

Two of the negro leaders in Santa Clara province, Armenteros and Pacheco, have surrendered to the authorities there. Vandalism was reported today at points in the vicinity of Guantanamo, but it was the work of individuals and not of organized bands.

The message from President Taft declaring that the movement of the Cuban Government is being watched, and the danger of American intervention, the operations are being pushed.

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TALK OF THIRD
PARTY TO BEAT
ROOSEVELT OUT

Bolters May Act If Split
Follows Nomination
of Colonel.

PREDICTION COMES
FROM THE INSIDE

Open Sessions of Committee on
Credentials Advocated by
Party Men.

By JUDSON C. WELLIVER.

"The Constitutional Party" will be the name of the anti-Roosevelt branch of the Republican party, organized out of the disaffected bolters and the extreme conservatives, if there is a split following the nomination of Mr. Roosevelt at Chicago. This is the prediction of people who have had opportunity to know something about the real inside discussions of the political situation, among the people who are leading the movement to prevent Roosevelt's nomination. They have reached the point where, in expectation that nothing can stop Roosevelt's nomination except foul play, they are talking more openly than ever before about holding a separate convention after the Chicago gathering, and organizing a new party.

Follow Plan of '96.

It is not expected that there will be two nominations at Chicago. There is understood to be no present purpose of organizing the bolting Taft elements for a rump convention at that time. Rather, the consideration thus far given to the subject involves thought of a movement such as the gold Democrats put forward in 1896, with the Palmer and Buckner ticket as bearers of the standard.

A later convention, at some different place, and a frank surrender of the name "Republican," are regarded as probable parts of the plan.

This movement would make its appeal to various classes. The defeated Republican bosses, seeing their fate clearly written in the nomination of Roosevelt, would in some cases be expected to give personal adhesion to the project, and in others to give effective encouragement without violating their own claims to normal regularity.

Then there would be a bid for the class of sincere conservatives, who allege that the nomination of Roosevelt is a subversion of the old traditions and ideals of the party; and finally, there would be a strong appeal to the support of the moneyed interests, the big business elements, that have been against Roosevelt throughout the present campaign.

Want Open Sessions.

From now till the national committee meets in Chicago to take up the contents, a vigorous propaganda will be kept at work, in the effort to induce the committee to hold open session for consideration of the cases before it. This would involve the violation of all precedents, for the committee has always held its contest hearings behind closed doors.

It is urged this year, however, that as the determination of the contest is likely to be of the greatest importance in determining how the convention shall be composed, and as there has been announcement by the Taft people of their purpose to boss the whole thing through the national committee and seat none but Taft claimants in all cases, the committee ought to protect itself, and the party interest as well, by doing its business publicly.

There will be early indication of the disposition of the committee, for on June 7 the cases from Alabama and Arkansas, coming in the alphabetical roll call of the States, will be called. Testimony will be taken, and it is not impossible that votes may be reached. These cases ought to give opportunity for a test line-up of the committee, and make ready for the final vote on the divide as between the Roosevelt and the Taft claims in the contests generally.

States Most Interested.

Keen concern is being expressed by the Republicans of Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, and Washington as to the disposition of the national committee in the contests in those States. Michigan (Continued on Fourth Page.)

IN CONGRESS TODAY

SENATE.
The Senate met at 10 o'clock. The conference report on army bill (S. 11,000) was taken up. The Committee on the Judiciary held a meeting and considered legislation with reference to intervention in Cuba.

Vice President Sherman presides over Senate, but has nothing to say about Chicago.

Senator Listerhead discusses his resolution calling on commissioner of internal revenue for detailed information about various corporations.

HOUSE.
House met at 11 o'clock. District Day aiders debated and debate on naval bill resumed.

Conference report on army appropriation bill reported.

Archibald investigation resumed.

Gentry Bros' Shows, 16th & U Sts. N. W. All this week. 35c-Adv.

BEGIN IT TOMORROW
The serial of the year The best newspaper story
An ideal summer novel
THE HOUSE OF THE PURPLE WINDOWS
The opening chapters will be printed tomorrow
IN THE TIMES